



The Front Burner
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
August, 2006

Welcome to the first edition of the monthly Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Newsletter. This publication will serve as one of several communication vehicles to be used by the OCIO as a method to share and learn about key developments, milestones and other items of mutual interest to the OCIO and program offices.

The OCIO is embarking on landmark projects that are key to DOE's mission. They include instituting a Cyber Security Revitalization plan, strengthening the department's current Enterprise Architecture which will codify decision-making and implementation procedures, and strengthening the best-practices, customer service-oriented approach to our work in keeping with the President's Management Agenda. These projects are key to the overall goals of the OCIO and their success hinges on constant cooperation and information sharing among the OCIO and program offices. This newsletter will serve as one vehicle for such dialogue.

Everyone within the OCIO is invited to submit material for consideration. As space is limited not all entries can be included; however, we hope to have a final product that gives readers of this newsletter a good picture of events within the OCIO.

Your comments and feedback are also welcome. We look forward to your participation.

Tom Pyke, CIO

**CALL BY BODMAN FOR
FUNCTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
APPLIES TO OCIO**

Secretary Samuel W. Bodman has long advocated more transparency and accountability in how duties are carried out in the Department. In a speech earlier this month, he called for the streamlining of personnel functions so that people in different areas who perform similar duties will establish lines of communication that will enable them work under the same gridlines and procedures.

In May, Mr. Bodman had spelled out his concerns in an all-staff memo, in which he directed the functional heads of six areas, including OCIO, to establish a working group in order to find a way to streamline those activities.

"From my perspective, what I expect out of all of this is: a more coordinated, collaborative functional decision-making process throughout the organization, including that at the top; secondly, better, more strategic and more detailed human capital plans; thirdly, improved and timely hiring decisions; fourth, better, more comprehensive training and development programs and, lastly, more informed, more efficient budgetary processes," he said in the speech.

The Secretary says he recognizes that individual program offices thrive within specific areas of expertise but that in areas such as human capital, and finances, creating a common environment can guard against redundancy.

IN BRIEF:

Cyber Security Revitalization Plan: A new DOE report on Cyber Security sets out a 12-month plan for implementing an unclassified data security system. OCIO will implement the program under the guidance of the Under Secretaries, and in conjunction with the Energy Information Administrator, the Director of Security and Safety Performance Assurance and the Power Marketing Administrator Representative.

New Name for eXCITE: The name eXtended Common Integrated Technology Environment, known as eXCITE, was changed to Department of Energy Common Operating Environment (DOECOE).

Enterprise Licensing Agreement (ELA) Program: The ELA program will begin data collection efforts at the end of July, gathering information on identified software currently in use throughout the Department. The data call is a first step in drawing up a plan for cost-effective software procurement and consolidation of IT contracts for commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software. The ELA Integrated Project Team (IPT) will also have a kick off meeting, reviewing policy and guidance for the program.

CYBER-SECURITY TIPS:

*Congratulations on Your Hard Work.
Now Keep It Up*

In a memo dated June 14, DOE/COE offered thanks to employees for following its advice on observing cyber security guidelines by being vigilant with their e-mail. Here are some useful tips from DOE/COE's memo:

- Be wary of opening e-mail attachments from unknown senders.
- Do not insert "outside" media devices into your PC.
- Do not share your password with anyone – not even with the Help Desk.
- Do not assume that e-mail systems are inherently secure.
- If you handle sensitive data, be extra vigilant.

DOE Strategic Plan Focuses on Security and Accountability

The Department has laid out a new strategic plan which includes an updated mission, five strategic themes, and several priorities and operating principles.

The 2006 Mission is, "Discovering the solutions to power and secure America's future." Each theme further explains how the agency seeks to achieve its mission.

Energy Security: Promoting America's energy security through reliable, clean, and affordable energy.

Nuclear Security: Ensuring America's nuclear security.

Scientific Discovery and Innovation:

Strengthening U.S. scientific discovery, economic competitiveness, and improving quality of life through innovations in science and technology.

Environmental Responsibility: Protecting the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the environmental legacy of nuclear weapons production.

Management Excellence: Enabling the mission through sound management.

Deputy Secretary Clay Sell Approves the A-76 Reorganization Package

Kevin Cooke, the Associate CIO for Business and Information Management, has announced that the A-76 Reorganization Package was approved by Deputy Secretary Clay Sell.

Mr. Cooke said that the package must meet all collective bargaining obligations before they can 'stand up' the MEO. The process to meet the collective bargaining obligations starts with forwarding the A-76 Reorganization package to HR.

He also announced plans to hold a town meeting to discuss the implementation, and to initiate a series of e-mail updates on the plan's progress as well as on information with which to guide OCIO members through the process.

Representatives from HR, Procurement, General Counsel and National Treasury Employees Union will be present at the town hall.

In a memo posted on July 12, Mr. Cooke urged stakeholders to "get reacquainted" with the information on A-76 that is posted on the DOE website. "I look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss this exciting endeavor," he added.

CRUNCH TIME FOR OMB

Training Session Outlines FY08 Do's and Don'ts for Exhibit 300s

OMB has altered some of the specifications in submitting Exhibit 300 business cases for FY08 IT investments. Reviewers should make sure business cases are in line with the President's Management Agenda, map out specific milestones, and make a convincing case for why funds are needed. Things to guard against include reports that are too long, vague, lack a risk management assessment or do not contain an E-Gov strategy review.